

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of the claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1 (Cancelled).

2 (Currently Amended). An isolated protein which is capable of binding to tumor necrosis factor receptor-associated 2 protein (TRAF2), said protein ~~consisting~~ <sup>112/2</sup> ~~comprising:~~

(A) a ~~protein comprising~~ polypeptide consisting of the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:3; or  
(B) a variant ~~having~~ consisting of an amino acid sequence that is at least 90% identical with SEQ ID NO:3, wherein said ~~protein~~ variant is ~~each~~ capable of binding to TRAF2. <sup>w.d.</sup>

3 (Original). The isolated protein of claim 2, which is a protein comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:3.

4-19 (Cancelled).

20 (Previously Presented). A composition comprising the isolated protein of claim 2 and a pharmaceutically acceptable excipient, diluent, or auxiliary agent. <sup>w.d.</sup>

21 (Currently Amended). A molecule having the binding portion of an antibody capable of binding to the <sup>w.d.</sup>

portion of said isolated protein of claim 2 that is said polypeptide of (A) or said variant of (B).

(22) (Original). The molecule of claim 21, which is an antibody. *w.d.*

(23) (Original). The molecule of claim 22, wherein said antibody is a monoclonal antibody. *w.d.*

(24) (Previously Presented). A composition comprising the molecule of claim 21, and a pharmaceutically acceptable excipient, diluent, or auxiliary agent. *w.d.*

25-37 (Cancelled).

(38) (Currently Amended). An isolated protein in accordance with claim 2, wherein said protein ~~or~~ and said variant ~~or~~ are each capable of binding to a component of the NF- $\kappa$ B complex selected from the group consisting of IKappaB kinase complex associated protein (IKAP), IKappaB kinase-alpha (IKK-alpha), IKappaB kinase-beta (IKK-beta), IKappaB kinase-gamma (IKK-gamma) and NF- $\kappa$ B inducing kinase (NIK). *w.d.*

39 (Cancelled).

(40) (Previously Presented). An isolated protein in accordance with claim 2, wherein said variant of (B) has an amino acid sequence that is at least 95% identical with SEQ ID NO:3.

41 (Cancelled).

42 (Currently Amended). An isolated protein in accordance with claim 2, ~~consisting of~~ comprising a variant of the protein ~~consisting of~~ polypeptide consisting of the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:3, which variant ~~has~~ ~~consists~~ of an amino acid sequence that is at least 90% identical with SEQ ID NO:3, and which variant is capable of binding to TRAF2.

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w.d.

43 (Currently Amended). An isolated protein in accordance with claim 2, ~~consisting of~~ comprising a variant of the protein ~~consisting of~~ polypeptide consisting of the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:3, which variant ~~has~~ ~~consists~~ of an amino acid sequence that is at least 95% identical with SEQ ID NO:3, and which variant is capable of binding to TRAF2.

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44 (Currently Amended). A molecule having the binding portion of an antibody capable of binding to the isolated protein of claim 3 polypeptide of SEQ ID NO:3.

A

45 (Previously Presented). The molecule of claim 44, which is an antibody.

A

46 (Previously Presented). The molecule of claim 45, wherein said antibody is a monoclonal antibody.

A

47 (Previously Presented). The isolated protein of claim 40, wherein said variant has no more than ten amino acid changes from the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:3.

(48) (Previously Presented). The isolated protein of claim 40, wherein said variant has no more than five amino acid changes from the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:3.

(49) (New). The isolated protein of claim 47, wherein each said change from the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:3 is a conservative substitution selected from among the substitutions in the following list:

Original

Residue

Substitution

Ala	Gly;Ser
Arg	Lys
Asn	Gln;His
Asp	Glu
Cys	Ser
Gln	Asn
Glu	Asp
Gly	Ala;Pro
His	Asn;Gln
Ile	Leu;Val
Leu	Ile;Val
Lys	Arg;Gln;Glu
Met	Leu;Tyr;Ile
Phe	Met;Leu;Tyr

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Ser	Thr
Thr	Ser
Trp	Tyr
Tyr	Trp;Phe
Val	Ile;Leu

or a conservative substitution that is an exchange within one of the following five groups:

Small aliphatic, nonpolar or

slightly polar residues:

Ala, Ser, Thr (Pro, Gly);

Polar negatively charged

residues and their amides:

Asp, Asn, Glu, Gln;

Polar, positively charged residues: His, Arg, Lys;

Large aliphatic nonpolar residues: Met, Leu, Ile, Val (Cys);

and

Large aromatic residues: Phe, Tyr, Trp.

50 (New). The isolated protein of claim 49, wherein said variant has no more than 5 of said amino acid changes from the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:3.